




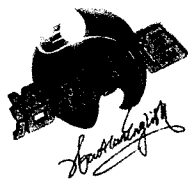
大学英语四、六级
新题新解丛书

大学英语六级 阅读技巧

◎ 主编 张艳秋 浩 瀚

READING
Comprehension
CET-6

 科学技术文献出版社



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自 2005 年 9 月教育部高等教育司公布大学英语四、六级考试改革新题型,到如今,全国 180 所试点高校轰轰烈烈地开展了改革实践活动,大学英语四、六级考试正在发生翻天覆地的新变化。

2007 年以后,全国大学英语六级考试将完全遵照改革后的《考试大纲》,采取新的评分原则和评分标准,按照 710 分的计分体制,不设及格线,只发成绩单。本次改革突出强调了听说能力,其比例占到了总分值的 35%。阅读理解部分比例调整为 35%。其中仔细阅读部分(careful reading)占 25%,快速阅读部分(fast reading)占 10%。仔细阅读部分除测试篇章阅读理解外,还包括对篇章语境中的词汇理解的测试;快速阅读部分测试各种快速阅读技能。综合测试比例为 15%,由两部分构成。第一部分为完型填空或改错,占 10%;第二部分为短句问答或翻译,占 5%。写作能力测试部分比例为 15%。由此可见,在英语教学上,将更加倾向于语言的综合运用能力的培养。而写作与翻译作为语言综合实用能力的终端表现,必成为考试的重点,教学的重点。

本书正是针对六级考试改革后的新考纲而编写的,目的在于提高考生的阅读能力。书中比较系统地介绍了阅读常识、技巧,帮助广大考生提高阅读能力,掌握临场解题技法,在进一步提高考生的应试能力的同时更能使其语言的综合能力稳步提升。

全书共涉及以下六个方面的内容:阅读理解概述、阅读新题型分析、篇章阅读技巧、阅读题型模式、历年阅读理解真题详解、六级模拟试题。

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内 容 简 介

2007 年以后,全国大学英语六级考试将完全遵照改革后的《考试大纲》,主要还是考查考生们的两大能力,即主题与定位。

本书正是针对六级考试改革后的新考纲而编写,书中比较系统地介绍了新六级考试的设题方式与命题规律、高度概括了考查要点及能力培养,针对各种题型提出了最简便、最实用的解题方法与技巧。本书还选择了近年的真题及新六级考试模拟真题,通过对历年真题和模拟真题的研究与演练,以使考生加深对考点的理解,巩固对应试技巧的运用能力。

科学技术文献出版社是国家科学技术部系统惟一一家中央级综合性科技出版机构,我们所有的努力都是为了使您增长知识和才干。



目 录

CONTENTS

第一章 阅读理解概述	(1)
第一节 基本要求	(1)
第二节 命题趋势	(1)
第三节 题材与体裁	(15)
第四节 基本技巧	(17)
第五节 能力培养	(18)
第六节 应试指导	(26)
第二章 阅读新题型分析	(28)
第一节 阅读新题型综述	(28)
第二节 快速阅读	(28)
第三节 短句问答	(51)
第四节 篇章词汇理解	(66)
第三章 篇章阅读技巧	(78)
第一节 文章结构分析	(78)
第二节 句式结构特点	(88)
第三节 段落结构分析	(106)
第四章 阅读题型模式	(110)
第一节 主旨大意题	(110)
第二节 观点态度题	(137)
第三节 细节事实题	(167)
第四节 推理判断题	(189)
第五节 语义理解题	(211)

第五章 历年阅读理解真题详解 (236)

2001 年 6 月真题	(236)
2002 年 1 月真题	(245)
2002 年 6 月真题	(254)
2003 年 1 月真题	(264)
2003 年 6 月真题	(274)
2003 年 9 月真题	(284)
2004 年 1 月真题	(294)
2004 年 6 月真题	(304)
2005 年 1 月真题	(314)
2005 年 6 月真题	(324)
2006 年 1 月真题	(334)
2006 年 6 月真题	(345)
2006 年 12 月真题	(356)
2007 年 6 月真题	(368)
2001 年 6 月真题解析	(379)
2002 年 1 月真题解析	(385)
2002 年 6 月真题解析	(393)
2003 年 1 月真题解析	(402)
2003 年 6 月真题解析	(411)
2003 年 9 月真题解析	(418)
2004 年 1 月真题解析	(424)
2004 年 6 月真题解析	(432)
2005 年 1 月真题解析	(441)
2005 年 6 月真题解析	(449)
2006 年 1 月真题解析	(456)
2006 年 6 月真题解析	(464)
2006 年 12 月真题解析	(472)
2007 年 6 月真题解析	(478)



第六章 六级模拟试题	(485)
模拟试题(一)	(485)
模拟试题(二)	(497)



第一章 阅读理解概述

第一节 基本要求

《大学英语教学大纲》对六级阅读能力的要求:掌握较高阅读技能;能顺利阅读并准确理解语言难度较高的一般题材文章和科普、科技读物;阅读速度达到每分钟 70 词,阅读难度略低,生词不超过总词数的 3% 的材料时,速度达到每分钟 120 词;阅读理解的准确率为 70% 为合格。

在大学英语老六级考试试卷构成中,阅读的比重很大,占到 40%。阅读部分通常由 4 篇文章组成,阅读理解题一般为 20 题,考试时间为 35 分钟,每篇文章长度约为 350 至 380 词左右,共计 1400 词左右的阅读量。从近两年的考试中看,文章篇幅长短不齐的情况普遍减少,篇幅略呈加长趋势,每篇文章都有 360 词左右。

根据这种情况,六级考生应该在规定的时间内完成 1400 词左右的阅读量;能够掌握所读材料的主旨和大意并辨别说明主旨和大意的事实和细节;能够理解字面意思,也根据所读材料进行一定的判断、推论和信息转换;能够理解个别句子的含义,也能理解上下文的逻辑关系。这就是《大学英语六级考试大纲》对考生阅读理解能力的要求。

第二节 命题趋势

2005 年国家教育部公布的《全国大学英语四、六级考试改革方案(试行)》明确指出:在考试内容和形式上,四、六级考试将增加快

速阅读理解测试,增加非选择性试题的比例。试点阶段的四、六级考试由4部分构成:听力理解、阅读理解、综合测试和写作测试。

阅读理解是新六级考试中变化最大的一块,分仔细阅读部分(careful reading)和快速阅读部分。仔细阅读部分除了传统的多项选择题还增加了选词填空,即考核在语境中对词的灵活运用,这无疑比单纯考词汇更科学。而快速阅读理解题型则是要求考生在15分钟内浏览1000字以上的一篇文章,同时还要做4个“对、错、未提及”的判断題,6个填空题。这样快节奏的考试,对很多奉行“一慢二看三选择”解题思路的同学来说无疑是个打击。所以,考生必须通过大量阅读来培养在10分钟内就将判断题和填空题中所给的答题信息在略读中找到并在寻读中摘出的能力,这样方能在考试中游刃有余。

另外,阅读填空题也将是新六级考试中出现的一个崭新的题型。它实质上是传统完形填空试题的变种,归于深度阅读理解试题部分。试题仍然遵循完形填空试题的基本原则,在文章的第一句和最后一句一般不设空。由于试题本身的阅读理解性质所决定,所设空之处均为影响全文理解的实词,共计10个空,提供15个词供选择,也就是有5个词是多余的,剩余的10个词必须各就各位。因此,填空完成后的检查性阅读就显得尤为重要。这部分试题必须10分钟之内完成,解题的速度无疑是一大挑战。因此,强调阅读的速度是新六级考试的趋势之一。

附:2006年12月大学英语六级考试试点考试样卷阅读理解部分

Part II Reading Comprehension (Skimming and Scanning)
(15 minutes) **Directions:** In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions on Answer Sheet 1.

For questions 1—4, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;



NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 5—10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Rainforests

Tropical rainforests are the most diverse ecosystem (生态系统) on Earth, and also the oldest. Today, tropical rainforests cover only 6 percent of the Earth's ground surface, but they are home to over half of the planet's plant and animal species.

What Is a Rainforest?

Generally speaking, a rainforest is an environment that receives high rainfall and is dominated by tall trees. A wide range of ecosystems fall into this category, of course. But most of the time when people talk about rainforests, they mean the tropical rainforests located near the equator.

These forests receive between 160 and 400 inches of rain per year. The total annual rainfall is spread pretty evenly throughout the year, and the temperature rarely dips below 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

This steady climate is due to the position of rainforests on the globe. Because of the orientation of the Earth's axis, the Northern and Southern hemispheres each spend part of the year tilted away from the sun. Since rainforests are at the middle of the globe, located near the equator, they are not especially affected by this change. They receive nearly the same amount of sunlight, and therefore heat, all year. Consequently, the weather in these regions remains fairly constant.

The consistently wet, warm weather and ample sunlight give plant life everything it needs to thrive. Trees have the resources to grow to tremendous heights, and they live for hundreds, even thousands, of years. These giants, which reach 60 to 150 ft in the air, form the basic structure of the rainforest. Their top branches spread wide in order to capture maximum sunlight. This creates a thick canopy (树冠) level at the top of the

forest, with thinner greenery levels underneath. Some large trees grow so tall that they even tower over the canopy layer.

As you go lower, down into the rainforest, you find less and less greenery, the forest floor is made up of moss, fungi, and decaying plant matter that has fallen from the upper layers. The reason for this decrease in greenery is very simple: The overabundance of plants gathering sunlight at the top of the forest blocks most sunlight from reaching the bottom of the forest, making it difficult for robust plants to thrive.

The Forest for the Trees

The ample sunlight and extremely wet climate of many tropical areas encourage the growth of towering trees with wide canopies. This thick top layer of the rainforest dictates the lives of all other plants in the forest. New tree seedlings rarely survive to make it to the top unless some older trees die, creating a “hole” in the canopy. When this happens, all of the seedlings on the ground level compete intensely to reach the sunlight.

Many plant species reach the top of the forest by climbing the tall trees. It is much easier to ascend this way, because the plant doesn't have to form its own supporting structure.

Some plant species, called epiphytes, grow directly on the surface of the giant trees. These plants, which include a variety of orchids and ferns, make up much of the understory, the layer of the rainforest right below the canopy. Epiphytes are close enough to the top to receive adequate light, and the runoff from the canopy layer provides all the water and nutrients (养分) they need, which is important since they don't have access to the nutrients in the ground.

Strangers and Buttresses

Some epiphytes eventually develop into stranglers. They grow long, thick roots that extend down the tree trunk into the ground. As they continue to grow, the roots form a sort of web structure all around the tree.



At the same time, the strangler plant's branches extend upward, spreading out into the canopy. Eventually, the strangler may block so much light from above, and absorb such a high percentage of nutrients from the ground below, that the host tree dies.

Competition over nutrients is almost as intense as competition for light. The excessive rainfall rapidly dissolves nutrients in the soil, making it relatively infertile except at the top layers. For this reason, rainforest tree roots grow outward to cover a wider area, rather than downward to lower levels. This makes rainforest trees somewhat unstable, since they don't have very strong anchors in the ground. Some trees compensate for this by growing natural buttresses. These buttresses are basically tree trunks that extend out from the side of the tree and down to the ground, giving the tree additional support.

Rainforest trees are dependent on bacteria that are continually producing nutrients in the ground. Rainforest bacteria and trees have a very close, symbiotic (共生的) relationship. The trees provide the bacteria with food, in the form of fallen leaves and other material, and the bacteria break this material down into the nutrients that the trees need to survive.

One of the most remarkable things about rainforest plant life is its diversity. The temperate rainforests of the Pacific Northwest are mainly composed of a dozen or so tree species. A tropical rainforest, on the other hand, might have 300 distinct tree species.

All Creatures, Great and Small

Rainforests are home to the majority of animal species in the world. And a great number of species who now live in other environments, including humans, originally inhabited the rainforests. Researchers estimate that in a large rainforest area, there may be more than 10 million different animal species.

Most of these species have adapted for life in the upper levels of the

rainforest, where food is most plentiful. Insects, which can easily climb or fly from tree to tree, make up the largest group (ants are the most abundant animal in the rainforest). Insect species have a highly symbiotic relationship with the plant life in a rainforest. The insects move from plant to plant, enjoying the wealth of food provided there. As they travel, the insects may pick up the plants' seeds, dropping them some distance away. This helps to disperse the population of the plant species over a larger area.

The numerous birds of the rainforest also play a major part in seed dispersal. When they eat fruit from a plant, the seeds pass through their digestive system. By the time they excrete (排泄) the seeds, the birds may have flown many miles away from the fruit-bearing tree.

There are also a large number of reptiles and mammals in the rainforest. Since the weather is so hot and humid during the day, most rainforest mammals are active only at night, dusk or dawn. The many rainforest bat species are especially well adapted for this lifestyle. Using their sonar, bats navigate easily through the mass of trees in the rainforest, feeding on insects and fruit.

While most rainforest species spend their lives in the trees, there is also a lot of life on the forest floor. Great apes, wild pigs, big cats and even elephants can all be found in rainforests. There are a number of people who live in the rainforests, as well. These tribes—which, up until recently, numbered in the thousands—are being forced out of the rainforests at an alarming rate because of deforestation.

Deforestation

In the past hundred years, humans have begun destroying rainforests at an alarming rate. Today, roughly 1.5 acres of rainforest are destroyed every second. People are cutting down the rainforests in pursuit of three major resources:

Land for crops



Lumber for paper and other wood products

Land for livestock pastures

In the current economy, people obviously have a need for all of these resources. But almost all experts agree that, over time, we will suffer much more from the destruction of the rainforests than we will benefit.

The world's rainforests are an extremely valuable natural resource, to be sure, but not for their lumber or their land. They are the main cradle of life on Earth, and they hold millions of unique life forms that we have yet to discover. Destroying the rainforests is comparable to destroying an unknown planet—we have no idea what we're losing. If deforestation continues at its current rate, the world's tropical rainforests will be wiped out within 40 years.

1. Virtually all plant and animal species on Earth can be found in tropical rainforests.

2. There is not much change in the weather in the tropical rainforests all the year round.

3. The largest number of rainforests in the world are located on the African continent.

4. Below the canopy level of a tropical rainforest grows an overabundance of plants.

5. New tree seedlings will not survive to reach the canopy level unless _____.

6. Epiphytes, which form much of the understory of the rainforest, get all their water and nutrients from _____.

7. Stranglers are so called because they _____ by blocking the sunlight and competing for the nutrients.

8. Since rainforest bacteria and trees depend on each other for life, the relationship they form is termed _____.

9. Plant species are dispersed over a large area with the help of

10. As we are still ignorant of millions of unique life forms in the rainforest, deforestation can be compared to the destruction of _____.

Part IV Reading Comprehension (Reading in Depth) (25 minutes)

Section A

Directions: In this section, there is a short passage with 5 questions or incomplete statements. Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions or complete the statements in the fewest possible words on Answer Sheet 2.

Questions 47 to 51 are based on the following passage.

America is a country that now sits atop the cherished myth that work provides rewards, that working people can support their families. It's a myth that has become so divorced from reality that it might as well begin with the words "Once upon a time." Today 1.6 million New Yorkers suffer from "food insecurity," which is a fancy way of saying they don't have enough to eat. Some are the people who come in at night and clean the skyscrapers that glitter along the river. Some pour coffee and take care of the aged parents of the people who live in those buildings. The American Dream for the well-to-do grows from the bowed backs of the working poor, who too often have to choose between groceries and rent.

In a new book called "The Betrayal of Work", Beth Shulman says that even in the booming 1990s one out of every four American workers made less than \$8.70 an hour, an income equal to the government's poverty level for a family of four. Many, if not most, of these workers had no health care, sick pay or retirement provisions.

We ease our consciences, Shulman writes, by describing these people as "low skilled," as though they're not important or intelligent enough to deserve more. But low-skilled workers today are better educated than ever before, and they constitute the linchpin (关键) of American



industry. When politicians crow (得意洋洋地说) that happy days are here again because jobs are on the rise, it's these jobs they're really talking about. Five of the 10 occupations expected to grow big in the next decade are in the lowest-paying job groups. And before we sit back and decide that's just the way it is, it's instructive to consider the rest of the world. While the bottom 10 percent of American workers earn just 37 percent of our average wage, their counterparts in other industrialized countries earn upwards of 60 percent. And those are countries that provide health care and child care, which eases the economic pinch considerably.

Almost 40 years ago, when Lyndon Johnson declared war on poverty, a family with a car and a house in the suburbs felt prosperous. Today that same family may well feel poor, overwhelmed by credit-card debt, a second mortgage and the cost of the stuff that has become the backbone of American life. When the middle class feels poor, the poor have little chance for change, or even recognition.

47. By saying "it might as well begin with the words 'Once upon a time'" (Line 3, Para. 1), the author suggests that the American myth is _____.

48. What is the American Dream of the well-to-do built upon?

49. Some Americans try to make themselves feel less guilty by attributing the poverty of the working people to _____.

50. We learn from the passage that the difference in pay between the lowest paid and the average worker in America is _____ than that in other industrialized countries.

51. According to the author, how would an American family with a car and a house in the suburbs probably feel about themselves today?

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them